CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for amalgamating transactions received via an electronic network on behalf of an array of participants comprising:

electronic means for enabling goods and/or services to be ordered via a computer-networked system which is implemented by a facilitator;

under the control of a facilitator, electronically enabling goods and/or services to be purchased separately by reference to each particular participant offering said good and/or services for sale and then amalgamating orders received for the goods and/or services offered for sale by participating parties and processing said orders through a single transactional gateway;

sorting means for manipulating, selecting and extracting ordering information from sets of orders which have been amalgamated and processed;

an electronic system for submitting particular order information which has been processed to applicable participants who then fulfill the orders for the particular goods and/or services which have been specifically ordered from them through the system;

whereby transactional costs associated with electronic transactions through a computer-networked environment are reduced for participants; and

whereby participants receive orders only after said orders have been processed and approved, thus resulting in the elimination of ordering mistakes and delays which occur as a result of multiple transfers of the same sets of ordering data.

2. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of tracking, sorting and manipulating order information which is maintained in a database.

3. The method according to claim 2, further including the step of enabling previous order information to be recalled, displayed and/or manipulated in order to aid participants to improve diverse aspects of their business, as well as to allow customers to retreive records of previously ordered items and/or services.

4. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of amalgamating credit card sales for processing, tracking, sorting and/or manipulation.

5. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of amalgamating electronic transfer fund purchases for processing, tracking, sorting and/or manipulation.

6. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of amalgamating sales sales for processing, tracking, sorting and/or manipulation, wherein purchases are communicated and made via an electronic device.

7. The method according to claim 2, further including the step of sending order information which has been amalgamated, processed, and then separated by the applicable participant, to the participant by electronic mail and/or facsimile machine, and/or wireless communication device.

8. The method according to claim 7, further including the step of enabling order information, which has been amalgamated, processed and separated, to be displayed via online interfaces and made downloadable, through said interfaces, for applicable participants.

9. The method according to claim 8, further including the step of enabling order information which has been amalgamated, processed and separated to be accessed in an online environment by means of a password system.

10. The method according to claim 9, further including the step of enabling order information to be accessed and downloaded directly into software accounting programs which are maintained by participating parties.

11. A method for enabling facilitators which amalgamate electronic orders for an array of merchants which are received via an electronic network to receive direct remuneration for all types of orders received comprising:

means for enabling orders to be tracked, sorted and manipulated based, among other things, on whether they have been paid for in a direct electronic manner, such as by a credit card or or EFT card, or indirectly by payment of cash or check to a participating merchant;

amalgamating orders which are paid for in a direct electronic manner and then processing said orders through a single transactional gateway;

receiving payment for orders which are paid for in a direct electronic manner and then applying those funds which are received to all other orders which have been enabled and tracked by the facilitator, no matter whether said orders have been paid for in cash, or by check, or by other means, directly to a participant who actually fulfilled the order made through the implemented electronic network system;

remitting funds to a participant which remain after the deduction of fees due the facilitator for all of the orders which were enabled by the facilitator; and

whereby a facilitator receives direct payment for the services provided to participants without having to invoice said participants on an accounts receivable type basis, which would otherwise require the facilitator to wait for payment.

12. The method according to claim 11, further including the step of deducting fees due for services provided to a participant only after a sale of the participants' goods and/or services has occurred so that participants only incur transactional costs after electronic sales have been finalized and payments on said orders have been processed and received by the facilitator.

13. The method according to claim 11, further including the step of providing additional services which are in addition to enabling transactions to take place in an electronically networked

environment, and then deducting payments due for these services from payments which have been received for orders which have been finalized and processed by the facilitator for the participant.

14. The method according to claim 11, further including the step of enabling amalgamated data which has been processed and sorted to be exported and/or imported into software accounting programs.

15. The method according to claim 14, further including the step of providing and utilizing programmable computer language tags in order to enable processed and sorted transactional data to be tracked and accounted for in a software accounting program.

16. The method according to claim 15, further including the step of tracking and accounting for goods and services which are made online and/or offline, whereby participants are treated as both customers and vendors for accounting purposes.

17. The method according to claim 16, further including the step of utilizing a chart of accounts whereby liability accounts and deposit accounts are created for each participating party so that transactional data, including fees due and monies owed, can be tracked, sorted, manipulated and accounted for.

18. The method according to claim 14, further including the step of utilizing programming routines to enable transactional data, including payments, to be tracked, sorted, manipulated and accounted for across an array of merchants no matter whether payments have been finalized in an online or offline environment.

19. The method according to claim 17, further including the step of utilizing separate liability and deposit accounts for each participant so that transactional data can be tracked separately and/or cumulatively by the particular party involved, as well as by the type of order or service involved.

20. The method according to claim 18, further including the step of utilizing a programmable routine whereby orders are sorted by payment type, as well as by participant, with participants being

remitted monies due after the deduction of fees which have been incurred on sales which have been

finalized in either in an online or offline environment.